



STATE OF MAINE

MAINE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Department of Education
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333

The State Board of Education held a regular monthly meeting on February 12, 2003, at Captain Cote's Restaurant, Augusta with the following members present: Chair Jean Gulliver, Vice Chair Philip Dionne, Joyce McPhetres, Wes Bonney, Ken Allen, Jack Norris, Ellie Multer, Jim Rier, and Jan Tockman.

Also present were: J. Duke Albanese, Commissioner; Judy Malcolm, Team Leader, Support Systems Subteam; Scott Brown, AIA, School Construction; Valerie Seaberg, Department of Education; and Rhonda Casey, Clerk.

CALLED TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOVED by Phil Dionne, seconded by Joyce McPhetres, and unanimously voted to approve the minutes for October 21, December 18, 2002, and January 15, 2003.

CONSENT AGENDA:

SITE APPROVAL FOR SAD #57 – MASSABESIC MIDDLE SCHOOL,
WATERBORO

REVISED STATEMENT OF FACT ON THE REQUEST TO REDUCE THE PERIOD
OF INTEREST-ONLY INTERIM LOCAL FINANCING ON THE MSAD #51-
CUMBERLAND/NORTH YARMOUTH MIDDLE SCHOOL MAJOR CAPITAL
IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

MOVED by Jim Rier, seconded by Ken Allen, and unanimously voted to approve the consent agenda.

REGULAR BUSINESS:

DESIGN AND FUNDING APPROVAL FOR THE BELFAST ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL IN SAD #34, MAJOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT CONSTRUCTION
PROJECT

Statement of Fact: The SAD #34 Belfast Elementary School construction project received Concept Approval at the September 11, 2002, Maine State Board of Education meeting. The project was approved in local referendum on October 17, 2002. This Design and Funding Approval is being requested pursuant to MRSA Title 20-A.

The School Administrative District #34 has requested Design and Funding Approval for the Belfast Elementary School construction project qualifying under state statute and State Board of Education, Rules for School Construction, and it is therefore recommended that the State Board approve the following:

1. That the School Administrative District #34 proposed project is eligible for school construction aid under MRSA Title 20-A, Chapter 609;
2. That the proposed project and the authorized method of financing are in the best interest of the State of Maine and the school unit;
3. That the total estimated capital outlay expenditures are reasonable; and
4. That the School Administrative District #34 proposed project is in compliance with MRSA Title 20-A, Chapter 301, as it relates to the provisions of special education facilities.

Concept Approval Date and Amount: September 11, 2002; \$9,815,062

Design & Funding Approval Date and Amount: February 12, 2003; \$9,815,062

Amount Included in Subsidized Debt Service: \$8,582,679

Local Only Project Funds: \$1,232,383

Increase (Decrease) From Concept Amount: \$ 0

Recommendation: It is recommended by the Department of Education and the State Board's Construction Subcommittee that the Maine State Board of Education grant Design and Funding Approval to School Administrative District #34 for the Belfast Elementary School Major Capital Improvement construction project.

This approval constitutes the State Board of Education's Design and Funding Approval. Final funding approval may be subject to adjustment under section 15 of the State Board of Education, Rules for School Construction, which states:

"When it is determined by the Commissioner, following the opening of school construction bids, that there are surplus funds contained in a project budget, the State Board directs the Department of Education (DOE), with the advice of the Bureau of General Services, to initiate a process to lower the approved budget to the appropriate funding level, thus, providing additional funds for other projects awaiting Concept Approval."

MOVED by Ellie Multer, seconded by Jim Rier, and unanimously voted to grant Design and Funding Approval to School Administrative District #34 for the Belfast Elementary School Major Capital Improvement construction project.

DESIGN AND FUNDING APPROVAL FOR THE SABATTUS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL MAJOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT CONSTRUCTION PROJECT

Statement of Fact The Sabattus Elementary School construction project received Concept Approval at the May 15, 2002, Maine State Board of Education meeting. The project was approved in local referendum on June 18, 2002. This Design and Funding Approval is being requested pursuant to MRSA Title 20-A. The project scope for the Major Capital Improvement Program includes a new elementary school for grades 3-8 on a new site with some demolition and minimal site work at the existing Sabattus Elementary School site. Local and Revolving Renovation Fund monies are for renovations at the existing Sabattus Elementary School.

The Sabattus School Department has requested Design and Funding Approval for the Sabattus Elementary School construction project qualifying under state statute and State Board of Education, Rules for School Construction, and it is therefore recommended that the State Board approve the following:

1. That Sabattus School Department's proposed project is eligible for school construction aid under MRSA Title 20-A, Chapter 609;
2. That the proposed project and the authorized method of financing are in the best interest of the State of Maine and the school unit;
3. That the total estimated capital outlay expenditures are reasonable; and
4. That Sabattus School Department's proposed project is in compliance with MRSA Title 20-A, Chapter 301, as it relates to the provisions of special education facilities.

Concept Approval Date and Amount: May 15, 2002; \$9,139,000

Design & Funding Approval Date and Amount: February 12, 2003; \$9,139,000

Amount Included in Subsidized Debt Service: \$8,548,000

Revolving Renovation Fund and Local Only Project Funds: \$591,000 (\$401,000 Local Only and \$190,000 Revolving Renovation Fund)

Increase (Decrease) from Concept Amount: \$ 0

Recommendation: It is recommended by the Department of Education and the State Board's Construction Subcommittee that the Maine State Board of Education grant Design and Funding Approval to the Sabattus School Department for the Sabattus Elementary School Major Capital Improvement construction project.

This approval constitutes the State Board of Education's Design and Funding Approval. Final funding approval may be subject to adjustment under section 15 of the State Board of Education, Rules for School Construction, which states:

"When it is determined by the Commissioner, following the opening of school construction bids, that there are surplus funds contained in a project budget, the State Board directs the Department of Education (DOE), with the advice of the Bureau of

General Services, to initiate a process to lower the approved budget to the appropriate funding level, thus, providing additional funds for other projects awaiting Concept Approval.”

MOVED by Jim Rier, seconded by Ken Allen, and unanimously voted to grant Design and Funding Approval to the Sabattus School Department for the Sabattus Elementary School Major Capital Improvement construction project.

MOVED by Janet Tockman, seconded by Joyce McPhetres and unanimously voted to waive the time limit specified in Section 1A.5 of the Rules for School Construction Projects. The time limit is extended to May 30, 2003, in order to permit the Town of Sabattus to utilize monies that it has in a reserve fund. The original referendum in the Town of Sabattus failed to authorize the expenditure of these reserve funds.

NEW BUSINESS:

PERU AND SAD #21 DISTRICT CONSOLIDATION

Statement of Fact: School Administrative District #21 consists of the towns of Dixfield, Canton, and Carthage. Peru is a stand-alone municipality and operates a K-8 elementary school. Secondary students from Peru now attend the high school of their choice. Most students either go to Dirigo High School (Dixfield) or Mountain Valley High School (Mexico-Rumford). Peru is contiguous with both Dixfield and Canton.

RESOLVE

That the State Board of Education, in keeping with its policy on regionalization (Resolution of the State Board of Education, adopted 8/21/02), strongly supports the municipality of Peru joining with School Administrative District #21.

That the State Board recognizes the high priority need for improved school facilities in Peru and in Canton and supports a school construction project that addresses the school needs of these communities once Peru has joined SAD #21 and SAD #21 has been placed on the Special Priority List. The Canton Elementary School (SAD #21) is presently #12 on the Priority List and the Peru Elementary School is presently #13 on the Priority List.

Recommendation: That the State Board of Education adopt the above Resolution by vote of the Board, and that the State Board of Education affirms that this consolidation is in the best interest of education in the Peru/SAD #21 geographic area.

MOVED by Jack Norris, seconded by Wes Bonney, and unanimously voted to adopt the above resolution as well as affirm that the consolidation is in the best interest of education in the Peru/SAD #21 geographic area.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION FROM THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
ENDORING THE HEALTHY LEARNERS PROJECT RECOMMENDED BY THE
GOVERNOR'S CHILDREN'S CABINET

In it's determination to:

- Ensure that Maine schools provide a learning environment that allows and encourages all students to reach their fullest potential.
- Affirm the worth of all children and their families through an integrated program of mental and physical wellness and social services.

The Maine State Board of Education strongly endorses the "Healthy Learners Project", a preventive, research-based program that helps children adjust to and succeed in school at an early age and enhances their ability to achieve Maine's Learning Results.

Research demonstrates patterns of school failure often begin in the first three years of school. The research also emphasizes the critical importance of providing positive, early school experiences to young children. When children's life experiences can be fortified at an early age, this support helps them, as they grow older. Thus, we believe that a child's initial experience in school is often a determinant of future failure or success. Healthy Learners Project seeks to help young children profit maximally from the school experience educationally, emotionally, and socially.

To this end we also believe it is critically important to take a preventive stance by systematically screening all children for appropriate adjustment to school. The screening is particularly helpful in differentiating children who can benefit most from a prevention program from those in need of more intensive help.

Therefore, we, the State Board of Education strongly endorse expansion of this project beyond the current pilot sites and urge the Governor's Children's Cabinet, the Legislature, and those in positions of leadership at the local level to take appropriate steps in policy development, to enable this project to expand and to make it available to all Maine children, kindergarten through third grade.

MOVED by Jack Norris, seconded by Joyce McPhetres, and unanimously voted to endorse the expansion of the project beyond the current pilot sites and urge the Governor's Cabinet, the Legislature, and those in positions of leadership at the local level to take appropriate steps in policy development, to enable this project to expand and to make it available to all Maine children, kindergarten through third grade.

CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT POSITION PAPER: HEALTHY LEARNER'S
PROJECT, SUPPORTING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN EARLY SCHOOL
ADJUSTMENT AND EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES

MOVED by Jack Norris, seconded by Joyce McPhetres, and unanimously voted in favor of supporting the Healthy Learner's Project which supports the relationship between early school adjustment and educational outcomes.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT:

Commissioner Albanese reported on the following:

- That the subsidy printouts (EFM-261) have been mailed to all superintendents and that the subsidy is based on the 2004-05 biennium budget.
- That there are several LDs involving private schools in this legislative session. Hearings will be held and testimony will be submitted as necessary.
- That Governor Baldacci has asked specifically for language relating to regionalization.
- That Governor Baldacci is proposing a moratorium on school construction and that if this is upheld then the future of construction projects may be in jeopardy.
- That the Department has received a letter from Secretary Paige announcing that is funding is available to assist states in paying for the evaluation of their technology plans. Maine will now need to apply for funding.
- That the Department and State Board should meet with the Education Committee and bring them up to date with issues involving school facilities.

CHAIR'S REPORT:

Chair Gulliver reported on the following:

- That she, Commissioner Albanese, other Board members, and staff from the Department of Education will be meeting with the acting director of the State Planning Office, David Keeley at 3:45 p.m. following the Board meeting.

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS:

Ken Allen:

- That several schools in Vermont are using woodchips as a source of energy to heat their schools and that these schools were stockpiling these woodchips.

Phil Dionne:

- That Brunswick High School in past years had also tried using alternative resources as a heating source and found that it was not cost effective.

Joyce McPhetres:

- That the Study Group to Study School Administrative Units has been temporarily put on hold as a result of the Governor's executive order establishing a Task Force on Increasing Efficiency and Equity in the Use of K-12 Education Resources. As chair of the task force, she would like to send a letter to the Education Committee and the Governor asking for clarification and permission to continue with the work as directed in LD 2043. Following a discussion, the Board agreed that a letter should be sent to the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee indicating that the Study Group would continue its work. A second letter would be sent to the Governor, recommending that a member of the Study Group be appointed to his task force.

Jim Rier:

- That SAD 8, Vinalhaven continues to have financial issues with its school construction project and as a result of these financial issues the project has not been completed.

ADJOURNMENT:

State Board of Education unanimously agreed to adjourn the Wednesday's, February 12, 2003, meeting at 3:45 p.m.